

PID Facts

PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease) refers to an infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and other reproductive organs and is a common complication of some STDs, including gonorrhea and chlamydia.

Possible Signs and Symptoms

- *Symptoms can range from none to severe*
- Lower abdominal pain
- Abnormal discharge from vagina
- Burning or painful sensation while urinating
- Fever
- Painful vaginal intercourse
- Irregular menstruation

Transmission

- Bacteria moves upward from a woman's vagina or cervix, commonly bacterial organisms are associated with gonorrhea and chlamydia

Prevention

- Take actions to prevent STDs
- Abstain from oral, anal, and vaginal sex
- Consistent, correct use of latex or polyurethane condoms or barriers during oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- Maintain a mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested for STDs and you know is uninfected
- Regular STD screening
- Early treatment of STD infection
- Ensure appropriate treatment of an infected partner

Treatment

- Examination and tests by a health care provider to diagnose and determine best course of treatment
- Treatment includes medications prescribed by a health care provider
- Follow-up examination can help ensure that treatment has been successful
- Severe cases may require hospitalization

Complications/Effects if Left Untreated

- Permanent damage to reproductive organs
- Infertility
- Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Chronic pelvic pain

Help Stop the Spread of Infection...

- Refrain from sexual contact (oral, anal, or vaginal sex) if you have symptoms
- Seek medical attention, including STD tests
- Refrain from any sexual activity with others until your treatment has been completed
- Take all medications prescribed, even if you no longer have symptoms
- Make sure all recent sex partners are notified if you are infected with gonorrhea or chlamydia
- Annual STD screenings if you are, or have been, sexually active
- If you are pregnant, get tested for STDs

For more information about STDs or about testing and treatment in New Jersey, please call the HIV/STD hotline or visit our web site:

1-800-624-2377

<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/stdhome.htm>

